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## **CPUC AND ENERGY COMMISSION'S DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS ON FIRST YEAR SUCCESSES**

SAN FRANCISCO, April 30, 2019 – The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and California Energy Commission's Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG), formed last year to help ensure that the benefits of the 21<sup>st</sup> century grid reach low income households and hard-to-reach customers, has issued its [annual report](#) documenting first year successes.

The 11-member DACAG was convened in April 2018 to advise the CPUC and Energy Commission on ways to help disadvantaged communities, including tribal and rural communities, benefit from proposed clean energy and pollution reduction programs.

The annual report chronicles the group's efforts during its first year. A highlight is the group's input on the CPUC's [Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan](#), adopted in February. The plan serves as a roadmap for advancing equity in CPUC programs and policies. The group was able to strengthen the definition of disadvantaged communities, emphasize health as it relates to communities, and strengthen the workforce development goal in the plan.

Another highlight is the group's work to refine the [Energy Commission's energy equity indicators](#), an online mapping tool that identifies and tracks opportunities to improve access to clean energy technologies for low income customers and disadvantaged communities, increase clean energy investment in those communities, and improve community resilience to grid outages and extreme events.



The group developed what it calls an [Equity Framework](#) to help guide it when examining climate investments or interventions under consideration by the CPUC or Energy Commission. The group successfully used the framework to help expand the definition of vulnerable communities to include tribal communities and low income areas.

The DACAG meets several times a year to review CPUC and Energy Commission renewable energy, energy efficiency, transportation electrification, distributed generation, and clean energy research and development programs and policies to determine if they would be effective and useful in disadvantaged communities.

Formation of the DACAG was required in Senate Bill 350, the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015. The group's members are either from or represent disadvantaged communities.

To view all of DACAG's [first-year activities](#), or to learn more about the group, visit its [web page](#).

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#### **About the California Public Utilities Commission**

The CPUC regulates services and utilities, safeguards the environment, and assures Californians' access to safe and reliable utility infrastructure and services. For more information on the CPUC, please visit [www.cpuc.ca.gov](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov).

#### **About the California Energy Commission**

The California Energy Commission is the state's primary energy policy and planning agency. It has [seven core responsibilities](#): advancing state energy policy, encouraging energy efficiency, certifying thermal power plants, investing in energy innovation, developing renewable energy, transforming transportation, and preparing for energy emergencies.

